

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRIDGE 01700 251441Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /062 W

-----066425 251445Z /47

P R 251300Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3215

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 1700

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UR,BB, MPOL

SUBJECT: PRESENCE OF SOVIET VESSELS OFF BARBADOS ALLEGEDLY
CAUSES GOB ANNOYANCE WITH US

1. AT ABOUT 9:00 PM ON JULY 22, I RECEIVED THE FIRST OF A
SERIES OF TELEPHONE CALLS FROM OFFICIALS OF THE GOB, INCLUDING
PRIME MINISTER J.M.G. "TOM" ADAMS, REQUESTING THE ASSISTANCE
OF THE USG IN IDENTIFYING A NUMBER OF VESSELS (VARIOUSLY
REPORTED AS FOUR OR EIGHT) AND TWO AIRCRAFT SIGHTED OFF
BARBADOS' SOUTHERN COAST. COMMANDING OFFICER OF NAVAL
FACILITY CHARLES ZETTLE HAD ALSO BEEN CONTACTED BY COMMISSIONER
OF POLICE AVISTON PRESCOD.

2. EVENTUALLY (EARLY JULY 23) CINCLANT FLEET INFORMED ZETTLE
THAT SHIPS WERE SOVIET AND AIRCRAFT US, LATTER CONDUCTING
A SURVEILLANCE MISSION. HE INFORMED PRESCOD DIRECTLY AND
I INFORMED PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR DEFENCE AND SECURITY
GILBERT MILLAR WHO PROMISED TO PASS INFORMATION ON TO PRIME
MINISTER.

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3. ON JULY 24, BARBADOS' LONE DAILY THE ADVOCATE-NEWS CARRIED
STORY ON PAGE ONE AND REPORTED THAT UNNAMED BARBADIAN OFFICIALS
WERE ANNOYED WITH USG. ALLEGEDLY, ANNOYANCE RESULTED FROM
SUPPOSITION THAT US AUTHORITIES HAD LONG KNOWN OF
PRESENCE OF SOVIET VESSELS AND FAILED TO NOTIFY GOB AND HAD
REFUSED REQUEST TO IDENTIFY AIRCRAFT; ALSO, THAT AIRCRAFT
HAD TRIED TO JAM RADAR SYSTEM AT AIRPORT, THEREBY CREATING

A DANGER TO CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT. AFTER CHECKING WITH ZETTLE, I CALLED MILLAR AND ASKED HIM TO TELL ADAMS THAT NEITHER EMBASSY NOR NAVAL FACILITY HAD HAD ANY PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF SOVIET PRESENCE, THAT NAVAL FACILITY HAD NO MEANS OF IDENTIFYING AIRCRAFT ITSELF BUT HAD DONE SO THROUGH NAVAL CHAIN OF COMMAND, AND THAT US NAVAL AIRCRAFT CARRYING OUT SURVEILLANCE MISSION DID NOT NORMALLY HAVE CAPABILITY OF JAMMING RADAR. LATER IN THE DAY, ADVOCATE-NEWS REPORTER CONTACTED ME AND SOLICITED MY COMMENT ON STORY. I REPLIED THAT I THOUGHT IT PREFERABLE TO LET THE MATTER DROP. WHEN REPORTER PERSISTED, HOWEVER, I MADE POINTS I HAD PREVIOUSLY MADE IN CONVERSATION WITH MILLAR. ADVOCATE-NEWS FOR TODAY (JULY 25) REPORTS MY ANSWERS TO REPORTER'S QUESTIONS.

4. COMMENT: INITIALLY GOB PROBABLY SUPPOSED SHIPS WERE GUATEMALAN (SEE BRIDGETOWN 1534). WE HAVE NOT SO FAR HAD ANY OFFICIAL COMPLAINT THAT USG UNCOOPERATIVE, AND IT MAY WELL BE THAT ORIGINAL ADVOCATE-NEWS HAS LITTLE OR NO BASIS IN FACT. ITS AUTHOR, GLYNE MURRAY, IS NOT REGARDED AS ONE OF THE PAPER'S MOST RELIABLE REPORTERS AND, AS A DOCTRINAIRE SOCIALIST, HE PRESUMABLY HAS A BIAS AGAINST US. UNLESS GOB CONFIRMS DIRECTLY TO EMBASSY, I PROPOSE TO TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION IN THIS MATTER. IF ADVOCATE-NEWS AGAIN APPROACHES ME, I WILL DECLINE TO COMMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, ALLEGATIONS, NAVAL SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRIDGE01700
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770264-0890
Format: TEL
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770724/aaaaauoj.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 85d78264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: MPOL, PBOR, UR, BB
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/85d78264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
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